

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: /A

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SUBJ: REOPENING OF CLASSES MARKED BY RESUMPTION OF
STUDENT VIOLENCE

SUMMARY: MONTH LONG HIATUS IN RIGHT-LEFT STUDENT VIOLENCE ENDED WITH
INCIDENTS AND BOYCOTTS FOLLOWING THE REOPENING OF ISTANBUL'S
UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS MARCH 1. POLICE, HOWEVER, HAVE IN

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CREASED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT LIKELY TROUBLE SPOTS, SUGGESTING
THAT NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO PREVENT RETURN TO
PRE-1971 STUDENT "ANARCHY". END SUMMARY.

1. REOPENING OF ISTANBUL'S UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS MARCH 1

AFTER MONTH-LONG RECESS WAS MARKED BY RESUMPTION OF RIGHT-LEFT
VIOLENCE WHICH HAS CRIPPLED 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR. BOSPHORUS
(BOGAZICI) UNIVERSITY (BU), WHICH SO FAR HAS MANAGED TO REMAIN
RELATIVELY FREE FROM IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE WAS GREETED ON OPENING
DAY WITH "INDEFINITE" BOYCOTT BY STUDENTS DEMANDING ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORMS. UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES' REFUSAL TO CONSIDER REFORMS
UNLESS THE BOYCOTT IS LIFTED AND ITS THREATS TO CLOSE

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UNIVERSITY HAVE CREATED UNEASY SITUATION ON CAMPUS, BUT NO

VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SINCE BU IS ONLY UNIVERSITY WHICH HAS BEEN ABLE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY THIS YEAR STUDENTS MAY GIVE IN RATHER THAN RISK LOSING CREDIT FOR THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR. IN OTHER UNIVERSITIES, WHERE THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, SAME INCENTIVES DO NOT EXIST.

2. CITY'S OTHER TWO UNIVERSITIES, ISTANBUL (IU) AND ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU) HAVE OPENED WITH ONLY MINOR SKIRMISHES BETWEEN LEFTIST STUDENTS PASSING OUT LEAFLETS AND RIGHT-WING COMMANDOS.

STUDENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN HOLDING "FORUMS", WHICH IN THE PAST HAVE USUALLY LED TO BOYCOTTS OR VIOLENT CLASHES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, POLICE ARE WATCHING BOTH UNIVERSITIES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO PREVENT BLOODSHED.

3. POLICE INTERVENTION WAS REQUIRED MARCH 3 TO BREAK UP LEFT-RIGHT CLASH AT YILDIZ STATE ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS BEEN SCENE OF SERIOUS IDEOLOGICALLY INSPIRED VIOLENCE. WHILE PRESS ACCOUNTS DIFFER ON WHETHER LEFTIST OR "COMMANDOS" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENT, SEVERAL HUNDRED POLICE REINFORCED WITH ARMORED RIOT VEHICLES WERE NECESSARY TO RESTORE ORDER. ALTHOUGH NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED, SHOTS WERE EXCHANGED AND SEVERAL HANDGUNS AND AMMUNITION WERE CONFISCATED. POLICE ARE SEARCHING EVERYONE ENTERING CAMPUS FOR WEAPONS.

4. COMMENT: RESUMPTION OF VIOLENCE AT REOPENING OF CAMPUSES COMES AS NO SURPRISE SINCE CONDITIONS REMAIN AS THEY WERE IN EARLY FEBRUARY WHEN CLASHES FORCED SCHOOLS TO RECESS PRIOR TO SCHEDULED VACATION PERIOD. IT IS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO COPE WITH POTENTIAL VIOLENCE. DESPITE REPORTS OF LACK OF MANPOWER,

SEVERAL HUNDRED POLICE WERE ABLE TO MOVE QUICKLY TO PUT DOWN YILDIZ CLASH. SIMILARLY, NEARLY TWO HUNDRED POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN STATIONED AT THE ATATURK TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE (ATATURK EGITIM ENSTITUSU) IN KADIKOY WHERE A BOYCOTT BY LEFTIST STUDENTS HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH TEACHER AT THE KADIKOY SCHOOL, POLICE HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCREENING ANYONE SEEKING TO ENTER TO EXTENT OF CARRYING OUT BODY SEARCHES AND MINUTE INSPECTION OF AUTOMOBILES OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY INCLUDING FOREIGN TEACHERS AT THE INSTITUTE. IMPLEMENTATION OF STRICTER "SECURITY" MEASURES SUGGESTS THAT DEMIRELY LED COALITION GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS IT CAN TO PREVENT SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING INTO "ANARCHY" WHICH LED TO DEMIREL'S OUSTER BY MARCH 12, 1971 "COUP BY MEMORANDUM".

MACE

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